S65/712

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**

**Application for admission to the**

**Master of Philosophy (MPhil) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programmes**

**in the Faculty of Science**

**Format for Research Proposal**

Notes:

1. All MPhil and PhD applicants are required to submit a research proposal providing a clear indication of their intended research. This document will be used to assess the merit of your application.
2. It is recommended that you discuss the proposed research topic with your prospective supervisor(s) and obtain a clear indication of support from them: applications without support from named supervisors are unlikely to be successful. E-mail addresses of academic staff are available from the relevant departmental web page.
3. There is no prescribed length for the proposal, although it should be sufficiently detailed to demonstrate your familiarity with the topics being addressed. A PhD proposal would normally be expected to include relatively more information on the background, importance and methodology of the research.
4. Adoption of the following template is recommended, although you can add or omit sections as appropriate: not all sections are relevant to all research fields.

1. Applicant’s name

2. Title of proposed research project

3. Summary of research

Maximum 250 words, understandable by a non-specialist.

4. Introduction

 Provide the relevant background information and explain the motivation for your study.

5. Objectives and hypotheses to be tested

List (using bullet points) the aims/objectives of the study and, where relevant, specify the hypotheses to be tested.

6. Literature review

Discuss the key publications in the proposed research area.

7. Materials and methods

Explain how you intend to undertake the research. There is no need to describe experimental apparatus or analyses in great detail: an indication of the approach to be adopted (with citation of sources) is adequate in most cases.

8. Anticipated outcome and value of the research

Explain the likely significance of your research and how it will impact the research field.

9. Literature cited

Provide bibliographic details of all references cited, adopting a standardised format.